

APPROVED: Meeting No. 21-94

ATTEST: *Paula Jewell*

MAYOR AND COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND
Meeting No. 13-94

April 18, 1994

The Mayor and Council of Rockville, Maryland, convened in Worksession in the Council Chamber, Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland, on April 18, 1994, at 7:40 p.m.

PRESENT

Mayor James F. Coyle

Councilmember Robert E. Dorsey

Councilmember Rose G. Krasnow

Councilmember James T. Marrinan

Councilmember Nina A. Weisbroth

In attendance: City Manager Bruce Romer and City Clerk Paula Jewell.

Re: Worksession with Southern
Christian Leadership Conference,
Montgomery County Chapter

The Mayor and Council met with Chairman James Moone and other representatives of the SCLC to discuss the following topics:

(A) Metro Center Redevelopment - Mr. Moone questioned whether there had been any further development on RCI's affirmative action posture towards blacks and minorities. Mayor Coyle noted that State funding for the renovations was secured a week ago, and when actual construction activity began, RCI intended to go forward with their letter of intent to follow an affirmative action posture in employing minorities in the construction and redevelopment of Town Center.

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(B) Budget Issues - SCLC Computer Program - City staff has reviewed SCLC's budget requests and has been working with Data Processing Manager, Dave Mays, on pricing SCLC's 94 requests for computer equipment. Mr. Krasnow noted that his FY95 budget presentation did not recommend funding for any outside agency requests for computer needs. In lieu of the City Manager's recommendation, the Mayor and Council were taking a global approach and looking at individual requests to be addressed in other ways. The City is moving away from individual funding requests and looking at the larger issues and determining goals for addressing the needs of all groups as a whole. Regarding the SCLC's requests for funding of \$22,500 for a computer program for the current fiscal year, SCLC reported that the average number of students in the standard classes was 10, with approximately 15-20 students in the tutorial programs. Mr. Moone expressed a concern about the lack of space in the Clinton AME Zion Church where classes were held, and he noted that computers that were not in use had to be locked away.

Councilmember Krasnow requested a breakdown of the \$22,500 which was being used for costs such as computer hardware and instructors.

(C) Cultural Diversity in the Workplace - SCLC acknowledged that there may have been a misinterpretation on their part regarding the City's statistics on Affirmative Action. SCLC will carefully review the report and will meet with the City's Personnel Department if they have any further questions. Mr. Moone asked about the City's training in the

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areas of sensitivity and sexual harassment. Mr. Romer reported that all supervisors and staff had received training in this area.

Councilmember Marrinan suggested that the City's exit interviews were a good mechanism for evaluating how well sensitivity training was working for managers. Mr. Romer confirmed that the City's exit interview process was designed to get at such issues.

(D) Access to Cable Channel - SCLC will discuss this when they meet with staff about the Affirmative Action Plan. Mayor Coyle noted some of the recent successful programs that Rockville Cable has produced on the topic of cultural diversity.

Re: Worksession with National
Chamber Orchestra

The Mayor and Council met with Piotr Gajewski who commented on the following issues:

There is a need for continued funding for NCO. The NCO has a budget of \$260,000 and Mr. Gajewski explained that the orchestra needed subsidies to help pay a basic wage to its musicians. The County has only allocated \$76,000 for all the arts this year. Mr. Gajewski reported that NCO had successfully raised \$80,000 through corporate and individual funding. The NCO is celebrating its 10th anniversary and was planning a gala anniversary concert to take place on January 25, 1995. The NCO has developed the following plans:

- a partnership with Richard Montgomery High School, working with their orchestra to give lessons, practices and free tickets to students;

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concerning a summer series in the park
 leading to jazz festivals and concerts (i.e., Meadowlands College in New Jersey)
 Mr. Gajewski said that in FY95, NCO was requesting a \$33,400 subsidy from
 the City (\$10,000 in direct financial support and the rest through in-kind services.)

Mayor Coyle commented that the Cultural Arts Commission would be bringing
 forth a proposal to look at all the arts in the community and how to best support those arts.

In response to Councilmember Marrinan's question, Mr. Gajewski explained
 the decision not to change the orchestra's name and said that the National Chamber Orchestra
 "served the City better than the other two would have" because of its
 history as a regional orchestra.

Mayor Coyle commented that he was pleased to see the investments in the
 community being made by NCO. Councilmember Dorsey questioned whether NCO had
 done any musical recordings. Mr. Gajewski responded that although NCO would like to,
 there was a problem with unions who demand that payments be made up front for this.
 Mayor Coyle questioned whether there was any benefit to enlarging the seating capacity of
 the Theatre in order to accommodate a third night for NCO concerts. Recreation and Parks
 Director, But Hall, explained that staff had looked into the idea of expanding the Theatre,
 but found that the cost for doing so would be in excess of \$1 million dollars.

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Re: Worksession with Hispanics United for
Rockville

The Mayor and Council met with Galo Correa and other representatives of HUR and discussed the following issues:

Mr. Correa reported that HUR had been involved with the City in the exchange of ideas for the Latino community. He also reported on activities that HUR has been involved in:

- mechanical students have been repairing at no cost vehicles for HOC and other needy families;
- HVAC students have been fixing units in the City during the Christmas in July Program; and
- voter registration drives have been conducted for hispanic citizens

Mr. Correa noted the need for jobs for the students in HUR's classes and the need for classroom space, materials, equipment and furniture. Mr. Romer said that the City had an inventory of furniture and equipment that might be donated, and he would discuss this with Mr. Correa.

Mayor Coyle said he was pleased about HUR's contributions to the community. He said that the Mayor and Council were interested in looking at what the needs were in the City's diverse communities and would be looking for assistance from

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Mr. Correa and other leaders on this issue. Mayor Coyle also noted that the Mayor and Council would schedule a visit to HUR's headquarters in the near future.

HUR Festival - HUR was expecting a large turnout for the July 10, 1994 Festival.

Mr. Correa noted that this year, HUR was organizing for better utilization of space for the stage and vendors and were also working closely with the City's staff to address the parking concerns and enforcement issues raised from last year's festival.

Language as a Barrier

HUR reported on an idea they developed to assist non-English speaking persons in understanding the judicial process. It was noted that handouts prepared in Spanish and English would be distributed to local Police Departments to disburse to non-English speaking motorists who may be stopped for traffic violations.

Re: Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, the meeting was adjourned at 10:01 p.m., to convene again in General Session at 7:30 p.m. on April 25, 1994, or at the call of the Mayor.